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TRANSMITTAL FORM (to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)		Application Number	10/014,671
		Filing Date	December 11, 2001
		First Named Inventor	Ryan J. Schoenefeld
		Art Unit	3731
		Examiner Name	D. Jacob Davis
Total Number of Pages in This Submission	12	Attorney Docket Number	5490-000266

ENCLOSURES (check all that apply)				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fee Transmittal Form <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fee Attached <input type="checkbox"/> Amendment / Reply <input type="checkbox"/> After Final <input type="checkbox"/> Affidavits/declaration(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Extension of Time Request <input type="checkbox"/> Express Abandonment Request <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement <input type="checkbox"/> Certified Copy of Priority Document(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts/ Incomplete Application <input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts under 37 CFR 1.52 or 1.53	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Drawing(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Licensing-related Papers <input type="checkbox"/> Petition <input type="checkbox"/> Petition to Convert to a Provisional Application <input type="checkbox"/> Power of Attorney, Revocation Change of Correspondence Address <input type="checkbox"/> Terminal Disclaimer <input type="checkbox"/> Request for Refund <input type="checkbox"/> CD, Number of CD(s) _____	<input type="checkbox"/> After Allowance Communication to Technology Center (TC) <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Board of Appeals and Interferences <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to TC (Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply Brief) <input type="checkbox"/> Proprietary Information <input type="checkbox"/> Status Letter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Enclosure(s) (please identify below): Comments on Statement for Reasons for Allowance; return postcard.		
<table border="1"><tr><td>Remarks</td><td>The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees that may be required under 37 CFR 1.16 or 1.17 to Deposit Account No. 08-0750.</td></tr></table>			Remarks	The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees that may be required under 37 CFR 1.16 or 1.17 to Deposit Account No. 08-0750.
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SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT			
Firm or Individual name	Harness, Dickey & Pierce, P.L.C.	Attorney Name Michael E. Hilton	Reg. No. 33,509
Signature			
Date	October 13, 2004		

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION/MAILING			
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Typed or printed name	Michael E. Hilton	Express Mail Label No.	EV 406 076 547 US (10/13/2004)
Signature		Date	October 13, 2004

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EV 406 076 547 US



PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No.: 10/014,671
Filing Date: December 11, 2001
Applicant: Ryan J. Schoenefeld
Group Art Unit: 3731
Examiner: D. Jacob Davis
Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR USE OF A GUIDE
WIRE CAPTURING SURGICAL INSTRUMENT
Attorney Docket: 5490-000266

Director of The United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

Sir:

Applicants gratefully note the allowance of Claims 1-8, 13, and 16-20 in the present patent application. While Applicants believe the claims are allowable, Applicants believe that the statement of reasons for allowance in this case is improper. As to each of independent claims 1 and 16, the Examiner's statement of reasons for allowance is that the prior art fails to disclose or suggest all of the limitations of these claims including some specifically identified features. Thus, this statement is ambiguous in that it suggests that each of the limitations of the independent claims are required for patentability while also implying that only specific limitations are important

with respect to patentability. As to the implication that every limitation of these claims is important to patentability, Applicants do not acquiesce that patentability resides in each identified feature or combination of features or that each feature of combination of features as recited in the claims is required for patentability, or that equivalence of any of the recited features are outside the scope of the claims. With respect to the implication that only the identified features are important to establishing patentability, Applicants do not acquiesce that patentability resides only in the specifically identified feature or that such feature is required for patentability, or that equivalence of the specified features are outside the scope of the claims. Moreover, to the extent the reasons for allowance do not separately address the additional subject matter of the remaining claims (Claims 2-8, 13 and 17-20), Applicants do not acquiesce to any inference that these claims do not present patentable subject matter independent of the patentability of the independent claims.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: Oct 13, 2004

By: 
Michael E. Hilton, Reg. No. 33,509

HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C.
P.O. Box 828
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48303
(248) 641-1600

MEH/kq



PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

September 8, 2004

Application No.: 10/014,671

Filing Date: December 11, 2001

Applicant: Ryan J. Schoenefeld

Group Art Unit: 3731

Examiner: D. Jacobs Davis

Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR USE OF A GUIDE
WIRE CAPTURING SURGICAL INSTRUMENT

Attorney Docket: 5490-000266

Director of The United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

TRANSMITTAL OF FORMAL DRAWINGS

Sir:

Enclosed for filing are six (6) "Replacement Sheets" including formal drawings (Figs. 1-12) for the above-identified patent application. Applicant respectfully requests that the enclosed FORMAL DRAWINGS replace the most recent drawings filed with the application.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 13 OCT 2004

By: Michael E. Hilton
Michael E. Hilton, Reg. No. 33,509

Harness, Dickey & Pierce, P.L.C.
P.O. Box 828
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48303
248-641-1600